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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 26 JAN 52

SUBJECT Sources of Ball-Bearings

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1. In the immediate post-war period ball-bearings were imported by Hungary. In December 1949, when the Hungarian government nationalized all companies with foreign capital, the [] suspended supplies to Hungary, and today, although the [] has its own sales representative in Budapest with an office in Ullői út. 55, there is practically no trade in ball bearings.

3. The main source of supply is now East Germany.
4. Since the Korean war the Hungarians have found it increasingly difficult to obtain supplies, and all Hungarian commercial agencies in the West have been instructed to purchase ball-bearings in any quantity. Although all trading operations have to be carried out through official state importing corporations, all those private firms previously in this line of business and with good contacts abroad have received every encouragement to facilitate imports of ball-bearings.
5. Under the orders of Minister Ernő Gerő, as chairman of the Economic Board, research in the field of home production is being carried out by the Budapest Technical University. Up to the present the local product has shown up badly under endurance tests.

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